

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/550,168	ISHIKAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Thomas E. Lazo	3745	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/18/06, 9/18/06</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

In claim 1, line 16 "feature 1. A" has been changed to --a--.

In claim 1, line 23, "piston." has been changed to --piston,--.

In claim 1, line 24, "feature 2. Said" has been changed to --said--.

In claim 1, line 33, "part." has been changed to --part, and--.

In claim 1, line 34, "feature 3. Said" has been changed to --said--.

In claim 3, line 2, "4" has been deleted.

In claim 3, line 3, "feature 4. Said" has been changed to --said--.

In claim 6, line 2, "5" has been deleted.

In claim 6, line 3, "feature 5. Said" has been changed to --said--.

The above changes to the claims have been made to correct grammatical errors and put the claims in one sentence form.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over the invention patented in U. S. Patent No. 6,581,380 to Dangel et al. and 6,272,858 to Takano et al.

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The improvement comprises a plunger type master cylinder with a recess formed on an outer peripheral surface of the piston ranging, when axially viewed, at least from a second edge on the side of the second end part of the opening of the relief port to a first edge on the side of the first end part of the opening of the relief portion, further ranging to an area away by a predetermined distance from the first edge of the opening of the relief portion toward the first end part side, and further ranging over the entire length in a peripheral direction of the piston and the seal coupling part of the distal end part of the inner lip of the seal ring is axially located at the opening part of the relief port on the side of the piston when the master cylinder is in a non-operating position for the purposes of promoting durability of the seal ring, reducing the invalid stroke, and preventing residual pressure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **PRIOR ART**

The patents to Dangel et al. and Takano et al. are cited for the showing of a plunger type master cylinder similar to applicant's but lacking the recess characteristics with the inner lip being located at the opening part of the relief port in a non-operating position.

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consists of three patents.

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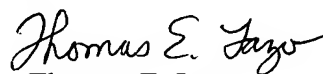
Tsubouchi et al., Yasuda et al., and Angione are cited to show plunger type master cylinders with relief ports, recesses, and lip seals.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Lazo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4818. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Edward Look, can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thomas E. Lazo  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3745  
October 9, 2006